

The Drayton Valley

Western Review

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Tuesday, December 30, 2014

Looking back at the memories of 2014



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Western Review file photos

It was a year of excitement and fond memories in Drayton Valley and Drazee County, from the good to the bad, everything has made this community what it will continue to be as it moves forward. From the annual triathlon, to the opening of a local musical, and new facilities to better the area, 2014 will be one hard year to top, but area residents are up to the challenge.

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news



A family with three children who lived in the Pleasant View Mobile Park has lost their home and all their belongings in a recent fire incident. The family who is currently in Montreal will return to Drayton Valley in the middle of January. Photo Submitted

Family is thankful for donations and support

Community rallies for family

Mamta Lulla
Western Review

Christmas has not been joyous to one family in Drayton Valley.

On Dec. 15 a Pleasant View Mobile Park home was on fire.

The family with three children is safe, but losing all their belongings has not been easy.

The fire originated around the Christmas tree in the living room, said Jason Win in a recent interview.

The cause of fire was not known as of early last week.

Reminiscing the day when the incident occurred Win said, he was out with two of the younger children ages three and one, while the older one was still in school. He received a call in the afternoon from his wife, Kim Steel.

"She heard a crackling, she came out of the room (where) she was packing," said Win.

"They don't know what caused it. It originated around the tree. It was a pine tree. Was it the light? Was it the extension cord? We don't know," he added.

The family was promised to the family to Montreal last week, where they are originally from. They were heading that way for Christmas.

Win explained the family stayed in a hotel after the incident.

"The place is finished. It's a total write-off," he added.

"The smoke and the heat damaged the house," he said.

People within the community made calls and reached out to the family insisting that they stay with them.

"(They were) offering places to stay for Christmas," he said. "Drayton Valley really pulls together for Christmas," added Win.

Win said the family is still dealing with the insurance company who is sorting out details of the case.

Win explained the community has generously offered donations to cash and kind including clothing and gift cards.

He thanked Eldorado School who was able to arrange a storage unit for the family. The school also made sure the six-year-old daughter had hot lunches at school. Win explained while they were staying at the hotel, they didn't always have the choice of hot food.

"We want to thank everybody. The corporations and Facebook community. It is very heartwarming. It's heartwarming and overwhelming. My daughter got the support from the whole school," said Steel.

Win was appreciative of all the Facebook comments and messages he has received from friends and strangers who were ready to help the family with whatever they needed.

"It's just because I am not there, I don't know," he said while on his way to Montreal.

The family's neighbour Aaron Kokas has been active on Facebook trying to help the family in any way she can.

Kokas took a trip to the local TD Bank and opened up an account for people who wish to donate money to the family.

It's been so busy with messages (on Facebook). It's been crazy," said Kokas.

They have got cash donations and gift cards. They received clothes for the kids, clothes for the parents, just household items," she added.

Win said they will be back from Montreal Jan. 15 for those who still wish to donate could reach him at 780-898-5274.

Donations at the TD Bank can be made out to Aaron Kokas and Shawn Leslie.

Monterol.

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DRAYTON VALLEY

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UP & COMING...

CIVIC CENTER HOLIDAY HOURS
Our office will be closed the following days during the holiday season:
Thurs., Jan. 1 & Fri., Jan. 2, 2015
We'd like to wish all of our residents and visitors to our community a wonderful and safe holiday season!

HOLIDAY GARBAGE COLLECTION
Please be advised that, due to the New Year's Day holiday falling on regular scheduled waste collection days, there will be the following changes: **New Year's Day Collection will be picked up on Sat. Jan. 3, 2015**
Thank you for your co-operation!

THE WRITE STUFF
Drayton Valley Municipal Library
Starting January 13 and is the second Tuesday of every month: 6:30 - 7:55 pm.
For writers at every level, join us as we meet to work on the art and craft of story through writing exercises, group support and encouragement, sharing of our creative masterpieces whether it be a four line poem or an epic, constructive feedback and editing.

The Public Works crew has been hard at work clearing snow and flooding the ponds getting them ready for public skating!

ASPENVIEW POND and the DOWNTOWN ICE SURFACE are being monitored and will be cleared and flooded as weather conditions allow.
Please watch for signs indicating safe skating conditions.
Please call the Town Office to report unsafe conditions at 780-514-2200

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Administrative Assistant
Workplace Safety and Emergency Management Coordinator
Subdivision & Development Appeal Board Members
Traffic Advisory Committee Members at Large
Information on Town Employment Opportunities can be found in the Classifieds Career Section or on our website
www.draytonvalley.ca/employment-opportunities

The Town of Drayton Valley has

TEMPORARY CASUAL POSITIONS

available for the upcoming 2015 Municipal By-Election

If you are interested in finding out more information, or applying for a position, please visit the Town Office, see our website at www.draytonvalley.ca, or contact Chandra Dyck, at 780-514-2200.

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SAT. JAN. 31, 2015 • 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM
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Town Office Civic Centre 5120 - 52 Street | Tel. 780-514-2200 | Fax. 780-542-5753 | Box 6837 Drayton Valley T7A 1A1 | 8:30am - 4:30pm | 24hr Info Line 780-514-2220
Early Childhood Development Centre | 780-514-2248 | Mackenzie Conference Centre | 780-514-2233 | Downtown Library (Civic Centre) | 780-514-2226
Fire Safety Dept | 780-514-2229 | Drayton Valley | 780-514-2234 | Rotary Library (Highway 1A1) | 780-514-2235
Download the Drayton Valley App - Available on the Apple App Store & Google Play Store. Keep up to date on local upcoming events, things to do, services and so much more!

news

Acting Reeve reflects back and looks ahead to 2015 in Brazeau County

A year in review with Brazeau County

Leahy Allen
Municipal Affairs

2014 has proven to be an eventful year for Brazeau County, and although some might not consider it to have been what the county needed, those sitting on council believe they have done what's best for the municipality.

"I think this year went really well," said Acting Reeve Shirley Mahan. "Personally for me and for the rest of council, I think we did a lot of community things and I believe that we moved forward in a really great way."

With 2014 being the first full calendar year with the current council, it was an unexpected change when former Reeve Pat Was stepped down from her position with Mahan taking her place until an election is held.

Sharing that council does not feel as though there is much to say about the decision to leave, as it was only hers to make, Mahan said they do appreciate the work she had done.

"We'd just like to thank her moving forward," she said. "Thank her for what she did and wish her all the best."

Wanting to focus on the positive, Mahan reflected on how far council has moved forward as a unit, especially considering three members are new to municipal politics.

With three new councillors on this year and a lot of new faces, they did a lot of work, she shared. "They did a lot of coming to the meetings, and preparing for their position and I think after the first few months after the transition of how things work they're awesome."

They really have shown leadership, and they have shown good decision making, she continued. "They bring lots to the table and we've worked together with all different personalities and I think we're blending really nicely, we're very strong."

Although many are happy with the job that council has been doing, others do not share the positive outlook Mahan has and this was proven as a group of concerned citizens collected signatures and submitted a petition with Municipal Affairs at the end of November.

Still, Shirley believes this also can be seen as a positive thing as it means people are getting involved with their community and are fighting for what they believe is necessary.

"The petition to me, it shows that our community actually cares," she said. "The petition is out there because people care about what they believe in, and we as councillors also care about what we believe in. We may not see eye to eye on a few issues, but I have talked to some of those people and generally we're all for community."

"To me it's only going to make us stronger and I don't believe that we've done nothing wrong," shared Mahan.

One of the areas of concern for many of the residents who signed the petition, or championed its efforts, was the increasing collaboration that has been seen between Brazeau County and Drayton Valley since 2014.

Not something new for the municipalities, Mahan shared the collaborations are not only an important part of Brazeau County's history, but will

continue to be one as it moves forward and begins to work with more and more municipalities, and even industries.

"When you look at municipalities, and this is the way that I look at things, right now we have Brazeau, Drayton Valley, and we have Brazeau County together. We are a community of three different municipalities," she said. "When we go into Edmonton to AAMDAC (Alberta Association of Municipal Districts & Counties) now we're not just thinking our community now we have to think bigger we have to think of Alberta as a community and we start to see different things that other people do and this is a good opportunity for collaboration."

"Then when we go to PCM (Federation of Canadian Municipalities) and see all of Canada coming together," Mahan continued. "So it's many layers of municipalities who are collaborating with each other and when we go to any of these functions, or conferences, we're steadily learning about what [others] do and maybe we don't have a need for that now, but somewhere along the line we [may]."

So you have to broaden your scope, you can't just view from the farm and expect to know anything more than what you're doing, so for us it's really important to not only do our community, but be part of other Alberta communities and the Canadian community."

Touching on some of the priorities council has been dealing with over the last year, Mahan shared that areas such as the Land Use Bylaw (LUB), road communication, and water rates, are just a few of the areas where they have seen success and will continue to have more moving into the future.

"This is an exciting time it's an exciting time of forward thinking," she said.

Looking ahead to what 2015 will bring, Mahan said council will continue to work with the LUB and look forward to having a well rounded document that will work for everyone. Affordable housing will also continue to be an area of focus, as well as other such as roads, and market investments.

Pointing out the Brazeau County Progress Report, that will be distributed twice a year, Mahan said it highlights the achievements of the County, as well as some of the priorities for the future.

Adding to this Mahan says, although the report is a beneficial thing to have it doesn't highlight all of the big things that council is doing for the future, many of which are exciting and beneficial to the community.

"We're extremely happy with what has happened over 2014, moving into 2015 there's a Canada Building Fund grants program that's going to be announced in January," she highlighted. "Brazeau County and the Town of Drayton Valley are working on a project that we can do together, with the twinning of the sewer trunk line that will help both municipalities and it will allow us the use of the trunk line that we have now for sewer which is very valuable place that we needed to get forward."

Many of the plans council has set in motion, or will look to initiate over 2015 will have one goal in mind, to make Brazeau County a place that has everything people will need, in order to retain and attract, something that is important to the future success of the area.

"We do what we do with the best interest of the community at heart," said Mahan. "If you look at the community, the average age is 50 years old. We have people out there who have young families and people who are struggling, they need all these things that are coming up and in order for us

to maintain and to keep those people in our community we have to retain and attract."

"Most kids if they're done school and if they don't get what they need here in their home town they are going to move on to big urban centres," she continued. "We keep saying, 'why do they move?' well maybe if we take a look around and figure it out we'd be better positioned to keep those people in our own community. Who else knows our community but the kids that grew up here? They know every well, they know what it needs, and they can be big leaders later on when they have the time to contribute as well."

One of the ways council can make things easier for residents, while improving the services offered, is by putting a budget that works for everyone. According to Mahan, this is what council has done sharing that residents will be happy to know that although some areas have seen an increase in spending, there is one thing that will not.

"We just passed our budget and we are not raising taxes, we have come to a really good budget," she said. "When we started out with our road improvement and stuff it was \$38 million on the books that we wanted to do, but realistically we have brought it down to \$13 million, and now we know we can do it, it's doable, so that's what's on there should be achievable."

"We're not thinking big and then not going to be able to do it," stated Mahan. "So we're really coming up with a balanced budget this year, which we haven't done that due to our administration that helps us get everything together and ready."

With no tax increase that should make our residents very happy, considering we still have a very high quality of services that we offer."

According to Mahan administration, as well as everyone that works within Brazeau County, is the reason why the municipality has continued to find success and has continued to move forward when it comes to services.

"On behalf of council I would just like to thank our administration for giving us the resources, the tools and everything that we need to do our job," she said. "It's a really good Brazeau family that works together and we need to be doing that."

The same goes with the people, the residents that come and give us feedback and information," Mahan added. "It's all good, we value it all and we do take everything into consideration and work with what we can."

Mahan shared that she expects this feedback from residents to continue in the future and hopes that those who are highly invested in the community will consider running when the County enters into its by-election.

Although a date for the vote will not be decided until Jan. 20, she encourages people to get involved, if not through running then with voting as it is an important aspect of what moves the municipality forward.

"Do a little research, get out and vote," urged Mahan. "Know what you want, what's working for you, and what isn't working for you."

"But keep an open mind," she added.

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news

Housing to be main focus of the town in 2015

Many projects will come to light for the Town of Drayton Valley next year

Maura Latta
Western Review

2014 has been a planning year for the Town of Drayton Valley with a lot of action coming forward next year, including working towards affordable housing.

"2014 was in many ways, from an infrastructure point of view, a planning year. For a number of infrastructure related studies, that were commissioned and results on these results are coming back. Water is here, road traffic, and that sort of thing," said Drayton Valley Mayor Glenn McLean.

A big focus in the new year for all councillors and the mayor will be affordable housing.

"We have got 2014 with the budget of course, renewed and better defined commitment towards affordable housing. Our greatest single need in housing for the community is affordable rental accommodation and council will be turning its mind to creating solutions that work for our community in 2015," said McLean.

He agrees affordable housing has been a challenge that's been ever present in the community.

"It's been that way for many years. It isn't a brand new phenomena, but it's come to the point where it is very clear that something needs to be done and it needs to be done soon. We need to be prepared for that. The only way to ensure you have the financial resources to act on it and that's what we have done," said McLean.

At a recent town council meeting an interim budget was passed with a proposed nine per cent tax

increase. It was noted that \$2 million will be directed towards housing.

"They (public) have been telling us for many years that housing is the biggest problem in the community and in fact if we don't do anything about it we will continue to fall behind. Other municipalities who are growing more in population, because of the dynamic aspect in their community, they are actually able to house their people. We have far too many people living in illegal suites or holiday trailers or worse and we want people to come to town to live in suitable accommodation," he explained.

"To enjoy their lives, to get down roots, to grow families, that's what we would like to see, that's what any community would like to see. The absence of affordable housing hampers that progress, so it's a barrier to economic growth, by not having housing. So affordable housing is very much an economic investment in our community. All businesses will benefit," he added.

A challenge for the town in the beginning of 2014 had been the weather over the winter that resulted in large amounts of snow in the area.

"We started off the year with extreme snow removal and that sort of thing can leave havoc on municipal budget. Every budget (appropriates estimates based on traditional weather patterns, certain number of major snow removals. Last year we exceeded that, so it's a challenge to still maintain budgets when you have those situations," he explained.

The collapse of the roof of the Curling Rink at the Omplex was another challenge for the town.

"The roof of the curling rink was a major challenge as well dealing with insurance and contractors, as well as construction being what it is... it's not always perfect. It's not

on time either. So managing that when we are trying to get it up and running again, big challenge," he explained.

The entire town faced the effects of the boil water advisory this past year.

"And then the boil water advisory, that was something we haven't experienced a lot of, here, mercifully, but I guess it's a good thing to look forward to new water treatment plant and so that won't be as prominent an issue for us in the future," he said.

"With the new water treatment facility, that will obviously be in the light of boil water advisory this past year. That will be a welcome addition to our community. Not only is it a newer, better technology but it will have a far greater capacity and will accommodate substantial growth in our municipality in the years to come so that will be a tremendous asset for us," explained McLean.

The new water treatment facility is also on the agenda for 2015.

Community Sustainability Plan was approved by the Town of Drayton Valley a while ago and includes the Social Development Plan.

"We commenced a review of the sustainability plan in 2014 and that will be concluded apparently in 2015. Part of the sustainability plan, sustainability being not just environmental, but in every facet of life in community including environment. Part of that plan is our Social Development Plan, so we are currently undergoing a process to review our Social Development Plan with a view to what can be done to make it a more resilient community," explained McLean.

In order to understand the concept of resiliency better, there was a presentation by Dr. Michael Ungar earlier this year at the MacKenzie Conference Centre.

"Dr. Ungar's workshop was the kickoff for the review of our Social Development Plan and there's new efforts to build resiliency in our community," said McLean.

The new Clean Energy Technology Centre (CETC) shaping up for fall 2015 will be an asset in the community.

"It will serve as a support and research building for new businesses coming to the community or training and building development services for new businesses coming to the community," he said.

43 Ave. is on the program for next year. 36 Ave. will very much like to move forward on and other road and infrastructure of that nature. Those things are important for people and goods in community and we think it's necessary to maintain commerce to

maintain quality of life in the community," he said.

"There is a possibility for development at the old HW Pickup site. We are looking forward to seeing what we can do there," he added.

Early in 2015, Drayton Valley residents will take to polls to elect a new councillor to replace former coun. Nancy McClure.

"My hope and expectation is that there be a number of highly qualified candidates stepping forward, to serve the community. Public service I still believe is very much a calling. The emphasis should be on the service and of course we want people with the right motivation and set in the interest, and help us build our community," he explained.

The group has grown. We now have about 12 people. It's mixed, both men and women. We have had writers join us in their 20s and we have writers who are in their 70s," said Sanderson last week.

The first video conference, via Skype, took place about a year ago with the author of My Temporary Life, Martin Crobie, dedicating some time to the local group.

"First Skype session was with Martin Crobie. That was about a year ago and I have noticed that it's very helpful for the group to Skype with, or talk with, ask questions of publishers in the writing field. With Martin Crobie, he gave so much pertinent information to the process of self-publishing that (local author) Stephanie (Blinding) used some of his suggestions when she self-published her second book 'Desolate'," said Sanderson.

The Western Review was able to get in touch with Crobie via e-mail.

"I had the pleasure of giving a short workshop to the group earlier this year at a Skype. I found them to be open and interested in self-publishing. Some of them

news

Connecting with writers

A local Drayton Valley writer group will virtually meet other writers

Maura Latta
Western Review

The Write Staff at the Drayton Valley Library is giving local writers an opportunity to interact virtually with authors and other writers locally and across the world.

The group, that currently meets once a month, will add another day to their calendar to have a video conference with other writers in Canada or abroad.

Facilitator of the group, Leah Sanderson explained the group is diverse ranging from self-published authors to people who may need a bit more encouragement to get started.

"The group has grown. We now have about 12 people. It's mixed, both men and women. We have had writers join us in their 20s and we have writers who are in their 70s," said Sanderson last week.

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"I had the pleasure of giving a short workshop to the group earlier this year at a Skype. I found them to be open and interested in self-publishing. Some of them

copiously took notes and they asked all the right questions. I know at least one member has gone on to publish her work. They're a great little group and it was encouraging to see a group of writers working together to find ways to connect with readers," he shared in his e-mail.

Luke Murphy is another author who decided to spend some virtual time with the group.

"My experience with The Write Staff was very positive. We have a great group of people who are very helpful to one another. There is always helpful advice never criticism. I have been working on short, young children's stories. The feedback from the group has been positive and helpful," said group member Lots Moss.

"I love this group. It's been over a year, I think, since I started coming and I don't think it will be possible to make me stop. The people are fantastic and the conversations are all over the place (which is one of the things that make this group so interesting). I started with a transparent interest in pursuing writing and now, with all the encouragement and support from the group, I've grown as a writer and hopefully improved my skills and have started, but three books. My plan is to focus on only one starting after the holidays," said Laura Eccleston.

The group is open to writers of all genres.

"It's creating an environment to write, to encourage and motivate people to write on any genre. We have to like to write songs so he can come and he can share that. If you have a poem, horror, mystery or success or romance, science fiction, it's a place where you can come and share your story," said Sanderson.

The group will continue to meet every second Tuesday of the month and have Skype Nights with authors every fourth Tuesday of the month. For more information contact the library at 780-514-4228 or email at dvalibrary@draytonvalley.ca.

The group has helped its members with their writing. "One of our group members, has said she looks forward to coming to the group. It keeps her on track. It encourages her to write so

she went from not creating a lot of space to write, to now, entering contests. So she is submitting her work," said Sanderson.

"We have another member who went from 'Oh, I am not a writer,' to writing incredibly beautiful poems," she added.

Some of the group members shared their experience with the Western Review via e-mail.

"Our meetings are very informal and comfortable. We have a great group of people who are very helpful to one another. There is always helpful advice never criticism. I have been working on short, young children's stories. The feedback from the group has been positive and helpful," said group member Lots Moss.

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news

RCMP will work with community to reduce crime

RCMP were pro-active last year and will continue to work with the people in the new year

Marta Lulla
Western Review

A 'slight' increase in the property crime in the Northwest part of the province, that included Drayton Valley area, kept the RCMP busy this past year.

They focused on working together with Rural Crime Watch, Citizens on Patrol (COP), and the public to help curb crime.

"One aspect of preventing crime is involving the community and there are a lot of people in this area who are willing to work with us for crime prevention. So I have been with Rural Crime Watch attending all their meetings, same with COP, and this puts me more in touch with what's going on out there," said Drayton Valley RCMP Sgt. Chris Delisle.

The presence of police officers both in town and the county increased in the past year.

"In the Town of Drayton Valley during the summer months we adjusted our schedule and we had what we called Drayton Valley night patrols. So basically when I had two officers working night shifts, one of them was out patrolling back alleys, industrial areas, and residential areas to minimize those businesses that get broken into at night, those cars that get broken into," said Delisle.

The RCMP also approached Brazeau County council for extra funding for overtime, as a result of which patrols were scheduled to address property crime in the county.

"Those patrols [created] self-generated work, so officers being on patrol noticed a few things happening, pulled over vehicles, arrest vehicles. There was pro-active work during that time as well, so obviously reducing the number of crime that could have happened in the area," said Delisle.

With the increased visibility of the RCMP, charges against prolific offenders also saw an increase.

"We recognized that there was a slight increase so we addressed it

by putting more resources to that. Our prisoner count was up, and we raised more charges towards prolific offenders, now I cannot say that they were all related to a specific property crime, but we were obviously focusing more attention to combat that rate. So, more prolific offenders going to jail for breach of condition and curfew and this and that because we noticed the increase and really addressed the problem," added Delisle.

Although, he agreed property crime is an ongoing battle.

"If you put someone in jail there is somebody else who comes out and starts stealing things, so it's never ending. I am happy with what the members have done with the detachment," he said.

The numbers show the results of their effort to decrease the crime rate.

"So our year goes from April to April, but 1,700 tickets were issued, this year from April 2014 to October 2014. In six months we were already at 1,700 tickets, so that number was reached in half the time. Why? Because we have really pushed out to prevent crime in the community so the numbers show that," he explained.

The RCMP hosted meetings in 2014 that addressed some concerns of the public.

"Going to those meetings, I had direct feedback on how things were in the County, how things are in the town, and that's why we had this community consultation in the County and in Town of Drayton Valley. Basically, addressing some of the concerns. Some of the misconceptions, some of the myths posted online, some people said you know crime was on the rise and it was unbelievable and it's a terrible place to be, that's not true," he said.

"There was a slight increase with statistics but we have to keep everything in perspective. Yes, some of the big ticketed items were stolen so holiday trailers, when those are being stolen I understand, it's a large amount of money that disappears, so it hurts a little bit more, but crime was on the rise, everything was on the rise and it was unbelievable and it was time to step up and talk to the public. To clear up some of the confusion, reassure the population that we are out there telling them what we are doing, the kinds of initiatives, the increase

in patrol, presence and it was effective," he added.

The results of the public meetings held were two-fold.

"People learned about COP, Rural Crime Watch and wanted to be involved and joined. So we saw an increase in membership for those organizations, which was really nice to see," he said.

There is hopes for another public consultation next year to see where the community stands and receive feedback.

Although, he agreed property crime is an ongoing battle, the RCMP will continue to work together with the community to find new ways to prevent crime.

"In 2015, we will continue our prevention, I will continue to work with Rural Crime Watch, COP, and (Business Against Crime Alberta) BACA, to find new ways for crime prevention. For example, crime prevention through environmental design, there are things that we can change (such as), in a liquor store - if you can go in and out quickly, you can steal a bottle, however, if you go in but to come out you have to go around or there are one or two turns, it's harder to steal a bottle. So layout of your parking lot, cameras, so crime prevention through design," he explained.

The RCMP wants public to know that they will work hard to prevent crime in the area.

"In all fairness it was an issue with that, we are not just going to sit back," Delisle said. The RCMP wants public to know that they will work hard to prevent crime in the area.

"In all fairness it was an issue with that, we are not just



File Photo

Drayton Valley RCMP hosted an Open House during the summer months early this year. Children and adults were seen along with emergency services enjoying a sunny afternoon with buns and dogs.

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news

EPBR looks to improve educational programming

EPBR reaches out to teachers and students to help fill programming gaps

Lesley Allan
Western Review

With a new year ahead of them, Eagle Point - Blue Rapids Parks Council (EPBR) is stepping back to look at its educational programming and where there might be room for improvement.

"We're just at a point where we're looking to expand and improve our already existing Environmental Education Program and looking to perhaps add some new ones based on the feedback that we receive from this educational strategy," explains Jeanne Pyslak, Education & Outreach Coordinator for EPBR.

In order to get a clear vision of what educational programming can look like and what areas it can expand into, Pyslak says that EPBR is reaching out to the people who have the most contact with the programs, as well as those that are educated by the programs themselves.

"We're just now at a stage where we're gathering input from local teachers, principals, and students on what type of programs they enjoy, and what kinds of topics they might want to learn about," she says. "We're trying to get feedback on what the students want to learn and what the teachers might feel like might be lacking in our programs already. We kind of want to fill in any gaps that we're not meeting right now with linking our programs to the curriculum."

"We just want to make sure we're addressing the needs of our user, both the students and the teachers," adds Pyslak. "We want to make sure our programs are up to date and they're still exciting and on topics that people want to learn more about."

Having already touched base with teachers in a one-on-one fashion, Pyslak says that in the new year they will begin to gather input from students, as well as parents who are interested in taking advantage of the opportunity to give feedback.

"So far we've received some great feedback on our existing program and then a lot of the teachers expressed interest in continuing different recreational activities, or learning more about recreational activities in their schools, so things like

padding, ATV safety, cross-country and downhill skiing," she says. "Those are a lot of the big things that they would like to learn more about."

Students interested in giving feedback to the parks council will have the opportunity to do so through online surveys that the EPBR will make available on its website and promote through Facebook as well.

"What we're asking the students is basically, if they could learn about any subject or topic, what would you like to learn about?" says Pyslak. "What are some of your favourite recreational activities that you do outside of school and that you'd like to do as part of school?"

Understanding that sometimes the

programming people are looking for isn't able to be offered by EPBR, Pyslak says they still want to hear about them because the organization not only wants to offer the best programming possible, but also wants to be that connection to resources when they can't be that source of opportunity.

"If there's a need for program that the Parks Council can't offer, we want to make sure the teachers know where they can get that info on who can do that type of programming in Drayton Valley if it's not us. We want to have a contact database for educational programs."

For Pyslak this is because the goal of EPBR is to get people outside and active, even if it is through additional programming offered outside the parks council.

"We just think it's really important to foster the connection between people and nature and the environment and we just want to make people more aware that just outside our doorsteps there's a whole bunch of great opportunities when it comes to recreation and environmental learning. So we always want to create a little more awareness about the park and the recreation areas as well and the opportunities that they provide for learning."

To learn more about the educational programming currently offered by EPBR, or to give feedback about where the parks council can improve opportunities, call (780) 898-7275, or visit www.facebook.com/epbrparksCouncil and www.epbrparksCouncil.org.

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news



On Dec. 18 and 22, the Town of Drayton Valley hosted a special information session for residents who may be interested in running during the upcoming by-election.

Lesley Allan
Western Review

Encouraging residents to run

Campaign School lends advice to interested residents

Lesley Allan
Western Review

With a by-election not too far into the future, the Town of Drayton Valley reached out to residents encouraging them to consider running, as well as answering questions about what it's like to run a successful election campaign.

To do this, council held two sessions of what they called Campaign School 2014, where they shared their experiences with elections of the past, and discussed areas such as platforms, campaign finances, as well as public speaking.

"It's really important that when people are considering entering into an election session that they come into it with as much knowledge and information as possible and that they feel that they're prepared and not blindsided by some of the variables that can come along with being a councillor or being in an election," shares Drayton Valley councillor Deb Bossett as to why council wanted to hold the two sessions.

Taking place Dec. 18 and 22, the information sessions were free and open to anyone to attend.

For those who did take the time to go, it was found to be a valuable opportunity that is not usually available when it comes to election campaigns.

"It's good because it answers a lot of questions that maybe you have and you don't know who to go to get those answers from," shared Wendy Snow. "When it's in a big forum and everybody is running there are no co-chairs because they're all running themselves

and may not necessarily want to be mentoring someone could potentially be competition."

"So having something like this is fantastic, it might answer a lot of questions, it might let you know whether or not you really want to jump on board, or if you're thinking 'be this let's really something I want to do,' she added.

One important aspect to the night was having a councillor (Bossett) there who had previously run a successful by-election campaign. Due to the short deadlines and public perspective, by-election can vary from full elections greatly and insight into that process is important.

But according to Bossett, although others might view the importance of a by-election differently, those who are running should approach their campaign the exact same way they would with any full election.

"One of the challenges might be that there is a little less public engagement, it's just a by-election in some people's minds and it may not be foremost in some people's minds, so that is a challenge," she shared. "My advice to anybody considering running is to just treat it as if it's a full blown campaign and full blown election, because in the end there is a vote just like in a full election."

"So for any candidates, the fact that it's a by-election shouldn't be a reason to them, the end result is still the same, somebody needs to be elected so you have to work towards that goal," Bossett added.

One aspect that interested candidates should take into mind is the shortened length of time they will have to consider their running, as well as time they will be able to run their campaign.

Despite the option of requesting an extension, council wanted to get the process moving quickly in order to get with their job of working for Dray-

ton Valley. "What's important for residents to know is that council is strong when it is a full complement of councillors and mayors," shared Bossett. "When one is missing there is that gap so we called this by-election as quickly as possible so that we could fill that gap and continue doing the business that needs to be done for our community."

One of those people still debating on whether or not to run, Snow shared that she hopes many people will take the opportunity to run for council.

"The more people running the better I think, because it gives people a better choice," she said. "There might be somebody that you like a couple things about and a couple things you don't, but with enough people are running there's probably someone there that you can agree with, that you like their philosophy and can put their vote behind them."

For those who have already committed to their mind to running, as well as those who are still on the fence, Bossett encourages them to take advantage of the unique opportunity offered with a by-election and talk with councillors who she says are more than willing to give advice and share their experiences gained from the past.

"Talk to current council members, we are more than happy to share our experiences with a person who is interested in running, and in the back of your mind you have to decide what do you have to offer if you become a councillor. It is a huge commitment and not something someone should enter into on a whim or last minute put their name on the ballot. It's something that really needs to be deeply considered, it doesn't affect just one person, the candidate, it affects his or her family and possibly and employees, so it's a big deal, so don't enter into it lightly."

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news

FCSS looks forward to doing more programs

➤ FCSS has youth and seniors on the agenda for next year

Mamta Lulla
Western Review

Throughout the last year Drayton Valley FCSS continued to provide funding to different organizations that support various programs, as well as worked towards building new programs and relationships.

"We provided grants to 14 different organizations this year. Which supported 16 different programs and services," said FCSS program co-ordinator Lois Strand.

The past year saw the formation of the Boys and Girls Club, along with new relationships with the club in Wewakwin and the two school divisions.

The FCSS office moved from the Town Civic Centre to the newly

opened Rotary House, along with other services.

"The Rotary building is a highlight," said Strand. "New people are realizing that we are here, so we are seeing much more traffic, we are seeing much more of the organization and partnership building."

She explained when people come in to the building to use one service, and the service providers believe another service would be helpful, they direct them right down the hallway.

"There is more sharing of services, so if [people] are coming in the building for McMan and McMan thinks that there's a service that we can offer them as well then they are just walking them down the hallway. Which is much easier than when there is a whole other step to go somewhere else," she said.

Strand was one of the people behind bringing Dr. Michael Ungar to Drayton Valley earlier in the year to build a more resilient community.

"Bringing him to our community was a huge success. As a result of that I think we are planning on doing some follow up now in 2015. But people definitely have a good understanding of what we mean when we try to build a resilient community. And parents were excited about Dr. Ungar which was successful because sometimes it's hard to get parents excited about a parenting workshop, but they were," explained Strand.

Another focus of the organization is youth, given the 4-5 Skate Park is their neighbour. Intergenerational Programs that focuses on bridging the gap between the youth and seniors has also been launched.

"Our Intergenerational Program has been launched so that's a success too. We have all the schools, all the junior and senior high schools in the community have been trained and are working in the new year on building capacity between peers and youth," said Strand.

Intergenerational programs did

take place in the past, but the PCSS is looking to do more.

"In the past we have done other intergenerational activities, some workshops here and there, we have done conferences a couple years ago which was awesome, however, it was a one-time thing. This is a program now. This is going to have those populations meeting on a consistent basis so they can build relationships with each other. So that's definitely a success," said Strand.

A huge focus in the new year is going to be the homelessness and poverty reduction and the introduction of Mat Program in the community.

"We are getting folks into a hotel room if they need it, but we need volunteers for the development of the Mat Program, so there will be volunteers available hopefully," said Strand.

FCSS is working with the local churches in Drayton Valley. The United Church has offered their basements for people who need a

place to stay.

"So if someone needs a shelter they can go to the church and have a warm bed for the night," she said.

The program is going forward after the second round of funding was received in September 2014.

"(With) homelessness it was a bit of a challenge because there was a gap... when the first round of funding ended, and then new round of funding began. So it was challenging to keep that momentum going, but we got through it," she explained.

Another challenge for the FCSS was to let the community know that the office has moved to a different location.

"(A) challenge was making sure that people who accessed our services knew that we were here. So I guess that was a challenge, especially the seniors because they are so used to going to the town office. It's still happening actually. There are still folks that are showing up at the Town office, not realizing that we are over here," she said.

news

TIME FOR THE SKATES TO COME OUT



The Public Works crew has been keeping busy prior to the holidays as they cleared snow and flooded local ponds so they were ready to use for the holiday season. Northview Pond and Ivanhoe Pond were ready for skating as of Dec. 19. The Drayton Valley Town Facebook page advises the users to watch out for signs that indicate skating conditions.

Mamta Lulla Western Review

OLYMPIAN MAKES TIME FOR STUDENTS



Mamta Lulla Western Review

Olympian athlete and mentor Britany Webster had a video conference with students at Evergreen and Colorado Elementary School recently thanks to Classroom Champions Drayton Valley. The program connects top performing athletes with students to recognize their full potential.



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news

About 300 fire calls were made past year

Drayton Valley/Brazzau County Fire Services are looking to educate people about fire safety in 2015

By Lisa Latta
Western Review

The Drayton Valley/Brazzau County Fire Services has had a busy year that involved teaching children about fire safety, fundraising and fire calls.

In 2014, the local fire department received over 300 calls including false alarms. The number doesn't seem big to many, but Drayton Valley/Brazzau County Fire Chief Tom Thomson asks residents to rethink

"It doesn't seem a lot until you put it in perspective. This is volunteer staff that is responding to volunteer staff responding 300 times a year, that's a significant amount. That is almost one call a day. Which is quite a bit for a smaller community. That is larger than a lot of communities our size," explained Thomson. "We tend to get a lot of phone calls. In regards to calls, the majority of them were fire alarm related calls where we would be called to false alarms at residential or commercial buildings, so that's something we are looking to try to improve in 2015 to reduce that number. That means less responses for us."

The number of structure fires in the area have gone down significantly thanks to the Chimney Sweep program that was introduced a couple years ago.

"I believe it was 2011 we had a significant number of residential structure fires and a majority of those were a result of either improper cleaning of fire places or improper

design or structure of fire places. Since that time we instituted Chimney Sweep Program and we have had enormous success with that program. We have significantly reduced the number of structure fires in our area. We had 22 residences (that) were inspected and checked this year in our Chimney Sweep Program with many of those now being repeat customers, where they are now getting their places cleaned, which is what we wanted in the program. We wanted to give our community to get that service done in a proper way so it's being inspected properly by certified people and it's been a huge success for us," explained Thomson.

One of the goals in the new year is to reduce the number of calls. "A lot of that will be through public education, actually getting out there and putting it in the media. Talking to people every chance we get about it. That is very similar to how we do the Chimney Sweep Program. So it will be the same steps," he said. "We have also instituted letters so when people do get residential false alarms we explain the costs of them. How much it costs to respond to a false alarm even though it's just a false alarm so people recognize and understand that tax payers are picking up the tab on your false alarms so that is something we will continue on and make a stronger effort in doing that."

The local fire department is known for arranging programs and activities for children, and the past year they added a new Kitchen Safety program for Grade 5 students. "It was basically designed to teach kids about kitchen safety because at that age they are starting to use the microwave and starting

to use the stove, so we thought it would be a very important and worthwhile project to pursue," said Thomson.

The department worked with Drayton Valley Thunder hockey team on a fire prevention camp making sure people are checking their smoke alarms. "We did a t-shirt campaign where we tossed out t-shirts to fans and the crowd and that gave us an opportunity to talk to people about fire safety, and in particular smoke alarms, making sure everybody had a working smoke alarm in the household. That was a very successful program and it was well received by hockey fans," said Thomson.

Some of the fundraising including helping out a family in Breton for whom the fire department raised \$25,000.

"We helped a family out in Breton area who had a young son who was going through serious brain tumour situation and firefighters out in station two in Breton did an auction/ head shaving event and they raised about \$25,000 for the family out there. That was a very popular and fun event which the whole community out there enjoyed doing," said Thomson.

Another family in Drayton Valley also received some attention from the fire department for whom \$1,000 was raised through the Fire Fighter Association Hockey tournament that is held annually. For November, the fire department was involved with Cancers Below the Waist.

"We also continue on doing other popular ones. November, we raised money for that, for Cancers Below the Waist. As well we also did some other fundraising events for cancer related causes. As being firefighters that's one of our biggest concerns is a cancer that is caused as a result of fire-

fighting. It's a big concern for us so we continue to support those activities," he explained.

Going into 2015, the department is hoping to give out scholarships.

"We started it this year but we will ramp it up next year. We have set up a scholarship program. There are two parts to the program. Last year, we started a program through the Community Foundation and that is for any high school student who is interested in participating or taking emergency service classes. So whether it's policing whether it's EMS, whether it's fire. If they are in a program for it they can show and then qualify for a scholarship from the Community Foundation," he explained.

"We are working on a program for our own fire fighters as well. So if they want to take advanced training, for example if a firefighter wants to take EMS, we are also now instituting a scholarship program for them so they can apply to get help with that because that will only help our community by doing those programs. So that's another part of it," he added.

Eventually Thomson is hoping the program would expand and the scholarships will be available to the families of firefighters.

"Because they pay a cost of it too, having their loved one in the fire department," he said.

Recently, a spousal appreciation dinner was hosted at the Fire Hall to

show the department's appreciation to the fire-fighting families.

Thomson extends his appreciation to local businesses who understand that their employees volunteer of the fire department.

One of the things that tends to be forgotten is (that) our firefighters are not only firefighters of the town and county but they are also employees and so if I could I would like to extend a huge appreciation and thank you to all the local businesses that support the fire department by allowing their employees to be able to leave, to come, to assist the community in this job. Without that, we would not be able to have a volunteer fire department," he said.

Recently, a spousal appreciation dinner was hosted at the Fire Hall to



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news McQueen positive about Alberta

Minister Lalla
Western Review

The past year has been a significant one for Drayton Valley-Devon MLA Diana McQueen, who became Alberta's Energy Minister in 2014.

"It has been good. Ten years on council has definitely helped with the municipal background," said McQueen in a recent interview.

She owes it to her background for helping her with the current role.

"Having the background in both environment and energy helps," she said.

The year has been a busy one for her with many projects in her constituency.

"It has been very busy, there is lots going on. Many construction projects in the constituency," she said.

Recently McQueen had two open houses in Drayton Valley and Devon.

"I have a new office in Devon and last week (early December) an open house in Drayton Valley, just before Christmas. It was good connecting with people," she said.

The year had also meant working with the new Alberta Premier Jim Prentice.

One of the challenges she came across was the recent dip in oil prices.

McQueen also said that with oil prices going from \$100 to \$57 per barrel, it makes moving forward with on going budget discussion a challenge.

However, she assured given the potential deficit to the Alberta economy the government will be sure to keep pri-

orities such as health care in mind.

"Even though we have challenges in budget there are plenty of opportunities. Alberta has a strong economy, recruiting more labour, and on the bright side it is a growing province," she confirmed.

As for the oil prices, the Energy Minister knows that global market plays a big role.

"In a year or so oil will be back to \$75 a barrel. But again it depends on what's happening at the international stage in regards with global oil pricing."

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WRSD reflects back

Wild Rose School Division
Special to the Western Review

The creation of innovative partnerships has been a hallmark feature and a significant reason for the success of Wild Rose School Division in 2014.

One of our most significant accomplishments in the past year, the creation of the Drayton Valley Community Outreach School (DYCOS) clearly demonstrates the power of partnerships. The DYCOS takes a new approach to providing alternative education programming for students who need something different. Opening on September 2, 2014 under the leadership of Pat Jeffery and a multi-talented staff, the re-named Frank Maddock Outreach School now provides support to Grade 7-12 students in Drayton Valley and the surrounding area. This school recognizes not all students learn best in the traditional school setting. By giving students flexible support, it allows them to be successful on their terms and time lines. The initial success we have seen in this school has been incredibly positive and we look forward to seeing it grow.

The positive partnership we have with the Town of Drayton Valley, Brezeau County and STAB Catholic School Division supports the success of all local students. This partnership resulted in the creation of a School Resource

Officer to serve the Drayton Valley Community and area. This officer will interact with our school and students on a daily basis to create a relationship from a young age with our local police force and students. They will assist us in delivering curriculum on drug awareness, drinking and driving, bullying and other areas. Having this officer in our schools will also support the work of the Family Wellness Workers and overall wellness initiative.

Wild Rose School Division also works closely with other school divisions on a number of initiatives. One of these initiatives was recognized at the Alberta School Board Association Fall Conference, when we received the Premier's Award for School Board Innovation and Excellence. We shared this award with Chinook's Edge School Division, Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools, Red Deer Public Schools and Wolf Creek School Division. This award recognized the creation of the Journey Program that focuses on supporting 11 to 18 year old students with mental health and behavioural needs.

"This program has been a great support for students with diverse learning needs in WRSD," stated Kathy Murch, WRSD Director of Student Support Services. "Our work will continue to strive to improve the life chances of all our students."

Looking ahead, some exciting new innovations will be available in the new year for our students. One of these has been the creation of the FLEX Learning Project. This project has developed new learning courses that have the ability to adapt to the learning needs, location and wishes of our students. "Being able to offer a variety of courses like Calm, Google Apps, Math, English and CTS Animation, allows us to ensure all of our students get the education they want," stated Jen Deyenberg, Director of Instructional Services. Using new technology such as Google Classroom, the FLEX Learning Project courses allow students to learn within a traditional classroom setting, outside of the traditional setting, at structured times or at any time. As this project continues to grow both the depth and level of programming will increase at the junior and high school levels.

Finally, we will continue to support our parents in being partners in the education of their children through School Councils, Town Hall Meetings, Umbrella School Council Meetings, Survey's and social media. Your support will always be needed and valued. Looking back on the work completed and ahead to what will be coming in the new year shows great promise for WRSD students. We wish you all the very best for 2015.

The Drayton Valley Western Review

Sports

Editor Courtney Whalen
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Local boy places sixth in CFR in Edmonton

Dawson Shannon placed sixth in the country

Minister Lalla
Western Review

Remembrance Day week was a memorable one for 15-year-old Dawson Shannon who participated in Canadian Finals Rodeo (CFR) in Edmonton, placing sixth place overall.

The competition sees professional rodeo associations from Alberta, Saskatchewan and B.C. coming together, with finals held in Edmonton.

Shannon competed with approximately 30 other riders during the competition that took place over six days.

"I was placed second and third different nights. Each night you place different and at the end they add all of that up. I got sixth place overall," he said.

"I didn't do as good as I wanted to. I wanted to place first," he added when asked about his performance.

His mother, Laura Shannon, was proud of his performance. "It was very exciting. I'm very proud. He worked very hard all year to get there. To the finals at the end of the year," she said.

"He placed second and third (different days). And then they can add up at the end of the week, for that year, as the champion of that year. So he is placed sixth in Canada," explained Laura Shannon.

He entered the competition ranking fifth after participating in other rodeo competitions throughout the year.

"There is about 35 to 40 rodeos just in that association that you have to buy your card at the beginning of the year and then you go to as many as you can and try... You get money just how you're placed in all the other rodeos and get paid," he explained.

His mother shared that he started with rodeo at the age of 11 and always had a love for the sport.

"It's something he has always wanted to do. He knew it, but that was the first school that he took to get into the sport, the safety of it, maintaining equipment, learning to be careful and professional, approaching it seriously," she said.

Along with the CFR, Shannon has been part of other competitions and was present at the Calgary Stampede in 2014.

Not done with the sport just yet, he looks forward to getting back to rodeo again in April.

"I'm too old for steers now, so I go for the junior bull. Age 16, and under 18. It starts next year around April," said Dawson Shannon.

His advice to starting riders is to not be discouraged, confirming that the sport can be challenging, especially after the summer break when school begins.

"Just keep trying as hard as you can," he added.



Photo courtesy of Mike Copeman

15-year-old Shannon Dawson took part in multiple rodeo competitions in 2014, including the Calgary Stampede in June and the Canadian Finals Rodeo in November. He was recently placed sixth in the Canadian Finals Rodeo held in Edmonton.

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ROWS

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Winter, an important time to be smart behind the wheel

Special to the Western Review

During the winter, it's easy to blame vehicular collisions on snow, ice and poor visibility. Rarely do drivers point the finger at themselves. Yet, the truth is, no matter how skilled drivers are, winter or summer, road safety depends largely on their driving attitude. "A lot of people don't think they're part of the problem. They like to blame it on the other guy or the weather," says Sharon Richards of Alberta Motor Association Driver Education. These tips can help drivers make the right decisions on the road.

Stop talking
In 2009 in Alberta, driving too close was the number one reason for crashes involving a death or serious injury. Many drivers may feel they are keeping a safe distance when they're not. "The rule we recommend is one car length for every 10 kilometres per hour of speed," says Rick Gardiner, acting director/deputy chief of the Alberta Sheriff Highway Patrol. To top winter conditions the distance needs to be two to three times more.

When we get behind the wheel of a car, strangely every minute seems to count and we recklessly disobey speed limits just to get to our destination one minute earlier. The risks of speeding increase during the winter as ice and snow drastically reduce the ability of tires to grip the road. "On icy roads, everything your car does should be slower,"

says Gardiner. "If you try to change lanes too quickly on black ice, or make any quick adjustments, you will lose control."

Plan your route
Before leaving on a trip during the winter, plan your route and give yourself lots of time to reach your destination. Paul Osa, a public affairs officer with Alberta Transportation, also suggests you let someone know where you're going, your planned route, destination and expected time of arrival. Alberta's 311 telephone information line and website have the latest reports and conditions across the province. You can also check AMA Road Reports, at AMARoadReports.ca.

This week's Wellness
Article is an excerpt from Apple, Alberta Health Services' health and wellness magazine. For more information on Apple please visit www.applemag.ca



Have you been travelling?

Did you take us along with you on your latest trip? Did you remember to get your picture taken with us? If you did e-mail your photo to courtney.whalen@sunmedia.ca so we can include it in our Roving Review feature.

More of Alberta's weekly news

PIP pg. 23

The invitation came after Law, who at a young age had taught himself some rudimentary skills at playing the piano with his toes, was rejected by a piano teacher because his toes were "too short".

In the school band Law was introduced to the trombone, quickly learning to operate the slide. From there he attended jazz camp, also learning to play the drums and finally becoming part of a group of people, besides his family, who saw past his limitations to his shining talents.

To underline his point, Law finished his presentation with the performance of a complex, intricate piano piece, written by Law himself, and bearing a suitable title: *The Ode To The Old Bag Who Said My Toes Were Too Short*.

FILMMAKERS WIN \$10,000 GRANT

Artistic Echo

"Two local filmmakers have earned their chance to produce their very own TV series episode."

Mitchell George and Ianie Fontaine both entered the Telus Storyhive contest — which grants filmmakers \$10,000 to complete their own pilot episode to be aired on Telus Optik TV — and won.

"I'm over the top right now," said George, who works with Crooked Cinema and has been interested in film his entire life.

Fontaine, who has experience directing, acting and writing, is equally thrilled with winning.

"We're so excited," said Fontaine.

Both George and Fontaine had to pitch an

idea to Storyhive and rely on votes to win. George's pilot came in first place in the province.

Titled Father Robin Hood it focuses on a father who starts robbing people to provide for his son, despite his better judgement.

Fontaine's concept, Shift, follows a young girl who discovers the true meaning of life and attempts to create a more environmentally friendly and conscious world.

Both Airdriens are now working hard to film, produce and edit their pilot episodes, which will be entered into the second round of the contest.

If they win again, they will be given \$50,000 to develop an entire series.

Both George and Fontaine say the majority of their pilot episodes will be cast and filmed locally.

George is planning to begin filming in the new year.

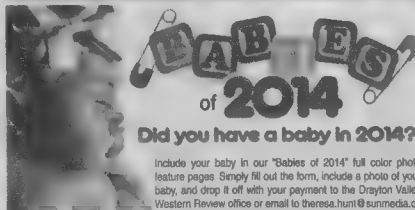
"This one is the real deal, all our other projects have just been practice," said George. "We've been given a gateway to something bigger and better."

Fontaine has already started filming and says she has over 20 people in her cast and crew names.

"Our crew and cast is amazing, so I think we can win the next round," said Fontaine.

Once the episodes are completed and aired, both Fontaine and George will need to secure more votes to take them to the next round.

For more information on their projects go to www.yyc.storyhive.com and search for Shift or Father Robin Hood.



Did you have a baby in 2014?

Include your baby in our 'Babies of 2014' full color photo feature pages. Simply fill out the form, include a photo of your baby, and drop it off with your payment to the Drayton Valley Western Review office or email to theresa.hunt@sunmedia.ca.

BABIES OF 2014

(Please Print Clearly)

Baby's Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Birthdate: Month _____ Day _____ 2014

☐ Son and/or ☐ Daughter (please check one)

of _____

(Father's Name (first name only) _____ Mother's Name (first name only) _____)

Please include a contact Name and Phone number on back of photo

Deadlines for submission is Monday, Jan. 26 at 5 pm

Babies of 2014 will be published February 3/15

Drop off or email your photo to theresa.hunt@sunmedia.ca

We reserve the right to edit all copy

Photos will be cropped to our dimensions

\$40.00

Admission: \$40.00

Western Review

4905 - 52 Ave., Drayton Valley
Ph: 780-442-5180 Fax: 780-543-9200

500

GMC DECEMBER HOLIDAY CASH

ELIGIBLE OWNERS RECEIVE UP TO \$8,500 IN TOTAL CREDITS ON SELECT 2014 MODELS*

BOXING WEEK BONUS ENDS JANUARY 2ND

★★★★★
NHTSA 5-STAR
OVERALL VEHICLE
SAFETY RATING



2014 SIERRA 1500 ALL-TERRAIN DOUBLE CAB DRIVEN

2014 SIERRA 1500 DOUBLE CAB

UP TO \$8,500 IN TOTAL CREDITS ON CASH PURCHASE

INCLUDES
\$7,000 CASH CREDITS
+ \$1,500 HOLIDAY CASH FOR ELIGIBLE OWNERS*
+ \$500 BOXING WEEK BONUS ON SELECT MODELS*



2014 TERRAIN AWARD WINNING SAFETY PICK
IN INITIAL QUALITY IN THE U.S.*



2014 TERRAIN DENALI MODEL SHOWN

2014 TERRAIN

UP TO \$4,250 IN TOTAL CREDITS ON CASH PURCHASE*

\$3,000 CASH CREDITS
+ \$1,250 HOLIDAY CASH FOR ELIGIBLE OWNERS
+ \$500 BOXING WEEK BONUS ON SELECT MODELS*

BOXING WEEK BONUS ENDS JANUARY 2ND

Careers

**NOW
HIRING****Journeymen**

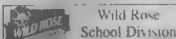
Hart Oilfield Rentals Ltd is an industry leader in providing high quality and effective service of oilfield related rental equipment. We currently have openings in Drayton Valley for journeymen plumbers, electricians, mechanics, and scaffolders.

Send resumes:
By Fax: (403) 845-7998
By E-mail: info@hartoil.com

**NOW HIRING!!**

Drillers
Derrickands
Floorhands

To apply please go to:
www.globalwellserving.com
Fax: 780-621-3988
or Call: 780-515-9885

**Employment
Opportunities**

- Casual Caretakers (\$14.77/hour, all locations, no guaranteed dates)
- Casual Support Staff (\$16.47/hour, including assistants, admin services, etc.)
- School Bus Drivers, Rocky Mtn. Horse area contact: Bob Sharp at 403-845-4255

Details of all open positions and complete application procedures are available on our website: www.wildrose.ca or by contacting: 403-845-4255. Please email your resume to: hr@wildrose.ca

HIRING

Careers

**SERVICE
TECHNICIAN**

Hart Oilfield Rentals Ltd is a progressive customer service oriented oilfield rental company. We rent and set up equipment at wellsite locations throughout Western Canada. Currently we have an opening in Drayton Valley for service technicians. On the job training provided. Oilfield tickets and experience are an asset.

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WELLSITE TRUCK DRIVER
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www.globalwellserving.com
Fax: 780-621-3988
or Call: 780-515-9885

Careers

**YARD PERSON
DRAYTON
VALLEY**

Hart Oilfield Rentals Ltd currently has an opening for a reliable yard person in Drayton Valley. Mechanical, plumbing and carpentry experience is a definite asset. This is a full-time position with benefits.

Send resumes
By Fax to: (403) 845-7998, or
By E-mail to: info@hartoil.com

Drayton's Shop
Automotive Services & Tires

Now Hiring

Educated Trained Mechanics

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Apply in person:
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Careers

**Brazeau County**

7801 Typ 494 Rd P.O. Box 72 Drayton Valley, Alberta T7A 1R1
Phone (780) 542-7777 - Fax: (780) 542-7770
www.brazeau.ab.ca

BRAZEAU COUNTY IS LOOKING FOR A DYNAMIC INDIVIDUAL TO ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF WATER/WASTEWATER OPERATOR.

Water treatment and distribution operations and maintenance and wastewater treatment and collection operations and maintenance. Building maintenance, snow removal and solid waste truck backup operator.

Required Qualifications:

- Valid Class 5 operator license, class 3 preferred
- Water and Sewer certification preferred but will train the right candidate
- Must have high school diploma or equivalent
- Must have experience with water and sewer infrastructure repair and maintenance
- Must be able to deal with the public in a courteous manner
- Ability to carry out physical labor
- Ability to efficiently operate heavy equipment an asset
- Driver's abstract will be required

Deadline for applicants is January 9th or until suitable applicant found.

Visit www.brazeau.ab.ca for a full job description.

Please ensure the specific position is clearly defined on cover letter.

To apply for this position please send resume and cover letter to the attention of:

Jay Kmyla
Human Resources Coordinator
Brazeau County
jkmlyk@brazeau.ab.ca

Ph: 780-542-7777
Fax: 780-542-7770

sungro**Sungro Horticulture
Seba Beach Location**

Is hiring for the following positions

- Plant Equipment Operators
- All Trades: 3rd year, 4th year and Journeyman
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- Laborers

Qualifications

- Self-started, ability to work independently or as a team
- Willingness to learn and accept training
- Mechanically inclined
- Demonstrate excellence in safety, housekeeping, work habits and attendance
- Ability to work shift work and weekends
- Valid driver's license
- Experience preferred, or will train the right person

Apply By E-mail by January 16, 2015
jerry@sungro.com
NO phone calls

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HIRING!****Place an ad today!****1-888-786-7821**

DraytonValleyWesternReview.com/Classifieds

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BLACK PRESS is looking for a Regional Editor for the Nelson Star and Castlegar News. This is an amazing opportunity for the right person. For full details please go to: <http://blackpress.ca/2014/12/15/regional-editor-wash-bc/>

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PUZZLER PAGE 1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13				14	15						
16			17		18						
19	20		21								
23			24		25		26				
27			28		29		30				
31			32		33						
34					35		36				
38					39		40		41		42
43				44			45		46		47
48			49	50					51		52
53							54				55
56									57		
58										59	

CLUES ACROSS
 1. Expression of sorrow or pity
 5. Mama ... rock singer
 9. Takes off
 11. Make an arrest
 13. Ear tube
 15. Limit
 16. Small shelter
 17. Cavaliers' #23
 18. Digits
 21. French king's name
 22. Winter time in Colorado
 23. Platform
 25. Gambling town
 26. Vietnamese offensive
 27. Fermentation sediment
 29. Load name
 31. Bile
 33. A wooded valley
 34. Soap opera
 36. Carinus rignon
 38. Belong to
 39. Woman (French)
 41. Olive, motor and mineral
 43. Norse goddess of death
 44. Military award
 46. Annexes
 48. One who adorns book pages

52. Affirmative
 53. Frigative
 54. Coal blacks
 56. Faculty of sight
 57. Leans
 58. Low, seditious cart
 59. Locomotion limbs

CLUES DOWN
 1. Close to
 2. Lactic
 3. Burn residue
 4. Offer for sale
 5. Verb formation (abbr.)
 6. Remo
 7. Lost weight
 8. Soundest mind
 9. Sound repetition
 10. Sew up the eyelids of falcons
 11. Always sorrow
 12. Raposa
 14. Mirish
 15. Divided a new phrase
 18. One who feels regret
 20. War encroachments
 24. Turn the surface
 26. The Jazz Singer
 28. Process of achieving #7 down

30. Miscellaneous collection
 32. Express sorrow
 34. More foolish
 35. Queen of Sparta
 37. Associating by treaty
 38. Served
 40. Satisfy
 42. Frozen rains
 43. Snake sound
 45. High arc tennis shots
 47. Cheek
 49. Murro genius
 50. Multiple
 51. List of names called
 55. No (Scol.)

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23
 Leo, after weeks of turning around, it is finally time to kick your feet up and relax. The concept may seem strange to you, but soon enough you will get the hang of it.

VRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22
 Virgo, you have been stuck on a problem but the solution is right around the corner. Perhaps you should change your perspective and go about it in a new way.

SUDOKU

Here's How It Works:
 Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a Sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fit each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out numbers. It won't be difficult, but it will be a challenge. The more numbers you have, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle.

ANSWER
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18
 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27
 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36
 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45
 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54
 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63
 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72
 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81
 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90
 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99

3 4 2 5
 7
 5 9 7 4
 6 5
 8 3 6
 2
 9 7 3
 1 6
 5 9 4 7

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/May 21
 If you seem that you have your head in the clouds, Aries, but you know that you have everything under control. Disregard the critics and keep plugging away.

Taurus - Apr 21/May 21
 Taurus, look inside yourself for the solution to a problem that has puzzled you. You understand the situation better than anyone else, so be down and find the solution.

GEMINI - May 21/June 21
 There is no easy way out of the Gemini work you have to get done. Gemini. Just hunker down and accept that these tasks have to be completed before you can move on.

CANCER - June 21/July 22
 You may feel some pressure from higher-ups, Cancer. But don't let that pressure to distract you from the tasks at hand. You will get things done on time.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23
 Leo, after weeks of turning around, it is finally time to kick your feet up and relax. The concept may seem strange to you, but soon enough you will get the hang of it.

VRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22
 Virgo, you have been stuck on a problem but the solution is right around the corner. Perhaps you should change your perspective and go about it in a new way.

LIONA - Sept 23/Oct 23
 Focus on the positives of a new venture even if you're nervous about the outcome. Libra. If you let negative thoughts creep in, you can quickly be overwhelmed.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22
 New possibilities seem to arise out of nowhere, Scorpio. Embrace the good fortune coming your way and make the most of these wonderful and exciting opportunities.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21
 It will take some energy to referee a situation at home, Sagittarius. Strong personalities can clash at times, but you have a way of working through the disputes.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20
 Don't try to hide your emotions this week, Capricorn. If others know just how you are feeling they will be more likely to offer a helping hand and some valuable advice.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18
 You have an infectious amount of energy this week, Aquarius. That will serve you well because many things are piling up on your to-do list. You're ready to meet tasks head-on.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20
 Do you feel like you're being pulled in too many directions, Pisces? Let up on accepting any new responsibilities for now.

Capture this new Advertising Opportunity for only \$85/week
 (3 month booking with first right of refusal)
 Please contact Kelly or Sarah at 780-542-5380

community events

100 St. Ursula's New Year's Eve. Dinner, dance and midnight snack. Live music by Northern Kings. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$30 at the door. For more information, or tickets, call (780) 727-4476 or (780) 727-5146.

Monday

• 6:00 and 6:30 PM exercise class @ 10 a.m. at Sunrise Village (3902-47th St.) Exercises done from a chair. All seniors welcome.

• First and third – Brats Injury Support Group meets @ 10:30 a.m. at 12:30 p.m.

• Singers at the Drayton Valley Legion. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

• Live dancing @ the Social Hall, 7:30 p.m.

• Bishop's Youth Agri Centre doors open at 6 p.m. Wingo at 7:30 p.m. 780-330-2432 or 780-330-5147 for information.

• 1st Wednesday

• DV Art Club meetings, 7 p.m. 542-7308.

• Kix Club meetings, (780) 631-9517.

Tuesdays

• Anger hosts everyone. DV Family Support & Intervention Program, women's group, 7 p.m. 542-4702 for more info.

• 1st & 3rd Tuesday

• Royal Purple meetings, Westwood Merlot Inn (upstairs), 7:30 p.m. Mon @ 542-2854 for info.

• 1st Wednesday

• Media Culture Youth today meets @ 7 p.m. at 19415 Outwash. 780-542-8396 for more info.

• Pre-school adults, 12:10-12:40 p.m. @ DV Post, 880-5543 for info.

Thursdays

• Derrick's Investments meet 7:30-8:30 p.m. @ Nutcracker College Campus. Everyone welcome. Call Mary @ 780-729-8922 for more info.

• 4th and 6th PM exercise class @ 10 a.m. at Sunrise Village (3902-47th St.) Exercises done from a chair. All seniors welcome.

• 1st Wednesday Support & Intervention Program, men's group, 7 p.m. 542-4702.

• 1st Wednesday, 12-2 @ Church of God, 542-4288, 542-7653.

• Warning Hearts Soup Kitchen, 1:30-1:30 @ Drayton Valley Regional Legion.

1st Wednesday

• Drayton Regional Search and Rescue @ 7 p.m. Don @ 780-542-2817.

• New members welcomed.

• Back Creek Community Assoc. general meetings.

• Women @ the Wind meets @ River Rock (Sage #), 7 p.m.

Back Creek

• DV Criminal and Patrol Society (COPS) meets, 7 p.m. Visit www.draytonvalleycop.com to get involved.

1st Wednesday

• Ambassadors @ Westwood Community Hall. Doors open 5:30 p.m.

• DV Genealogical Society meets, 7 p.m. @ Whistling Wolf. For information call 780-543-2787.

• Drayton Valley Fire Air Society PAID BY NOON at the Legion Church.

• 780-542-4024 for more information.

8th Wednesday

• Max Performing Arts Centre board meeting, 8:45 p.m. on Max investment.

• Westwood City Council Hall board meets, 7:30 p.m. @ the hall.

1st Wednesday

• DV & District Cancer Support Group meets, 11:30 a.m. Arcadia room, Westwood, Howard @ 780-542-2778 and Fern @ 780-542-5444 for info.

• DV and District Historical Society meets, 1 p.m. at senior's drop-in centre.

8:45 second Wednesday

• 8th & 10th single parent support group @ Drayton Valley Parent-Liaison Centre from 6-7:30 p.m. Maria Sept. 24.

1st Wednesday

• Neotoma Neotoma meetings, 7 p.m. @ United Church.

• Brighter Futures Indoor Playgroup in Valler Green, 10-11:30 a.m. Call 780-514-9070 or 780-686-2543 for more information.

• Drayton Valley Fine Art Society PAID BY NOON at the Legion Church.

2nd Wednesday

• Maxine's Longevity meetings, 7 p.m. @ the hospital.

• DV Hospital Auxiliary meets, 7 p.m. @ the hospital.

• General meeting for Executive Community Hall @ the hall starting @ 7:30 p.m. except June.

1st Wednesday

• 1st Thursday Classic Car Club meets at 7 p.m. at Westwood.

• DV Hares & Hares Quilts Guild at Potomac Lutheran Church, at 7 p.m.

1st Wednesday

• 1st and 3rd PM exercise class @ 10 a.m. at Sunrise Village (3902-47th St.) Exercises done from a chair. All seniors welcome.

• All-Anon meets, 6 p.m. Braeburn Catholic Church, Cheryl @ 787-6671 for more information.

• 1st Wednesday family meals in the basement of the Church of God from 12:30-1:30 p.m. Contact @ 780-421-0868 for information.

Saturdays

• Fun art afternoon, 1 p.m. Big T Golf Club in Bertons.

1st Sunday of the month

• Family jamboos meeting @ the 5th Recreation Centre in Drayton Valley. Doors open @ 1 p.m. with jamboos starting @ 2 p.m. Everyone welcome to come and listen to music and socialize. For info call 780-542-7766.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

A JOURNAL OF DRAYTON VALLEY'S CHURCHES IN WORD

"Together For Transformation"

The Anglican Parish of All Saints'

5217 - 47 Avenue, Drayton Valley • Office Phone: 780-542-5908

REV. EMMA VICKERY

SUNDAY SERVICES

9:00 a.m. - Holy Communion (and of course prayer)

10:30 a.m. - Family Enchanted (Book of Alternative Services)

10:30 a.m. - Sunday School (and of course prayer)

RENTAL SPACE AVAILABLE

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CHURCH & MINISTRIES

4551 - 47 Avenue, Drayton Valley • Office Phone: 780-542-5908

Pastors: Mark & Leanne Eschman

SUNDAY SERVICE 10:30 a.m.

Please call our office at 780-542-5843

email: ignitedchurch@telus.net

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ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH

4708 - 50 Avenue, Drayton Valley

Parish Office: 542-5254

Rev. Gary Lee

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday 5:00 p.m. Sunday 12:00 Noon

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homes

What's in your credit report?

Credit, an important part of buying a home

Michelle McMaster
Special to CM Agency

When you are shopping for a mortgage, banks and other lenders will review your credit report to assess how well you pay your bills and debts. A good credit report and credit score are important factors in determining whether or not you will be approved for a mortgage. There are some simple steps you can take to maintain a good credit report — and improve your chances of being approved.

A credit report is a detailed summary of your credit history, employment history and personal financial information on file. Your credit score is a number included in the report that illustrates your financial health at a specific point in time. This is one of the factors mortgage professionals consider in qualifying you for a mortgage.

It's a good idea to obtain a copy of your credit report and ensure it is complete and accurate before you talk to a mortgage professional. For a copy of

your report and to find out your credit score, contact Canada's two credit-reporting agencies: Equifax Canada at www.equifax.ca and TransUnion Canada at [These agencies will provide you with an online copy of your credit report for a small fee. You can also obtain a free copy of your credit report by mail. If you find any errors in your report, notify the credit-reporting agency and the organization responsible for the inaccuracy immediately.](http://www.transunion.ca.</p>
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It's important to begin building a credit history as early as possible. If you do not have a credit score, you can begin to build one by applying for — and responsibly using — a credit card. Your financial institution or mortgage professional can help.

Demonstrating your ability to manage credit is key to maintaining a good credit score. There are a number of things you can do to improve your credit score, starting with always paying your bills on time and on time. If you cannot pay the full amount, pay at least the required minimum shown on your monthly statement. Pay off your debts (such as loans, credit cards, lines of credit, etc.) as quickly as possible. Never go over the limit on your credit cards, and try to keep

your balances well below the limit. Reducing the number of credit cards or loan applications you make can also improve your credit score.

To find out more about credit scores and reports, visit the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada website and download or request a free copy of their guide, Understanding Your Credit Report and Credit Score. This guide provides practical, straightforward information on how to obtain and understand your credit report and score, as well as how to build and maintain a good credit history.

For more homebuying tips, visit CMHC's Interactive Homebuying Step by Step Guide at www.cmhc.ca. As Canada's national housing agency, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) is a trusted source of housing information. You can look to CMHC for timely, relevant and reliable information to help you make informed housing decisions and to access a wide range of housing financing choices.

—Michelle McMaster is the Corporate Representative for the Greater Toronto Area at Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. You can reach her at 416-218-3452 or at mcmcmaster@cmhc.ca.

is this your DREAM HOME?

#4, 4651 MADSEN AVE



Looking to downsize?? If you're 45 plus, then this could be the perfect place for you. Snow removal and cutting grass will be a thing of the past, as your condo fee's cover all of that! Inside, you'll find a spacious eat in kitchen with nook, a master bedroom large enough for a king sized bed, his and hers closets plus and a 3 piece ensuite! In addition, the main floor boasts another good sized bedroom, along with the convenience of main floor laundry. Should you need more space, this unit also has a fully developed basement, with an Acorn stair lift chair to make things a little easier if needed. Other features include a lovely covered deck with gas line for your BBQ, as well as a fully finished heated garage! PLUS! This unit has just had brand new shingles installed!

Price \$342,900 / MLS E3387173

Call Darby Jupe 780-898-9857

View More Pictures @ www.draytonvalleyhomes.com



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Did you know that the name Cathy means "pure"? Well, this Cathy is pure black and pure fun! Cathy is a playful girl who loves hanging out with other kitties. She is fun loving and fearless. Are you looking for some excitement? So is Cathy! Come and meet her at the Cause for Critters animal shelter. Bay 43-54-55 St., www.causeforcritters.ca, or 780-586-7297.

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